

Reminder!
Pastoral Care Services'
Prayer
Breakfast

Last Thursday of every month

0715-0745

Located in the NMCP Galley

For more information call 953-5550.

Love Mom

The candles are lit,
But no song will be sung,
No laughter, no glee, of my little one
Who would have been there.

If you only knew the plans that would
be
Made by your dad and me,
The cake to be baked . . .
The presents wrapped . . .
And all the funny party hats.

Love Mom
Kathie Rataj Mayo

The pictures taken by your dad,
Of course,
As loving friends fill the house.

All of this is not meant to be,
Since you were taken away from me,
No birthday cake . . .
No presents unwrapped . . .
No pictures of you in your party hat.

But the candles are lit . . .
Never to go out . . .
For they burn forever in my heart.



“When a person is born we rejoice,
and when they’re married we
jubilate,
But when they die we pretend
nothing happened.”

Margaret Mead



Program Purpose

RTS was developed:

- To provide a multidisciplinary hospital/clinic based perinatal bereavement program to assist families who have experienced the loss of a baby through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth and newborn death,
- To offer educational programs to interested health care professionals, ancillary staff and the community on grief, loss and the RTS[program, and
- To promote community awareness about the needs of bereaved parents.

Program Goals

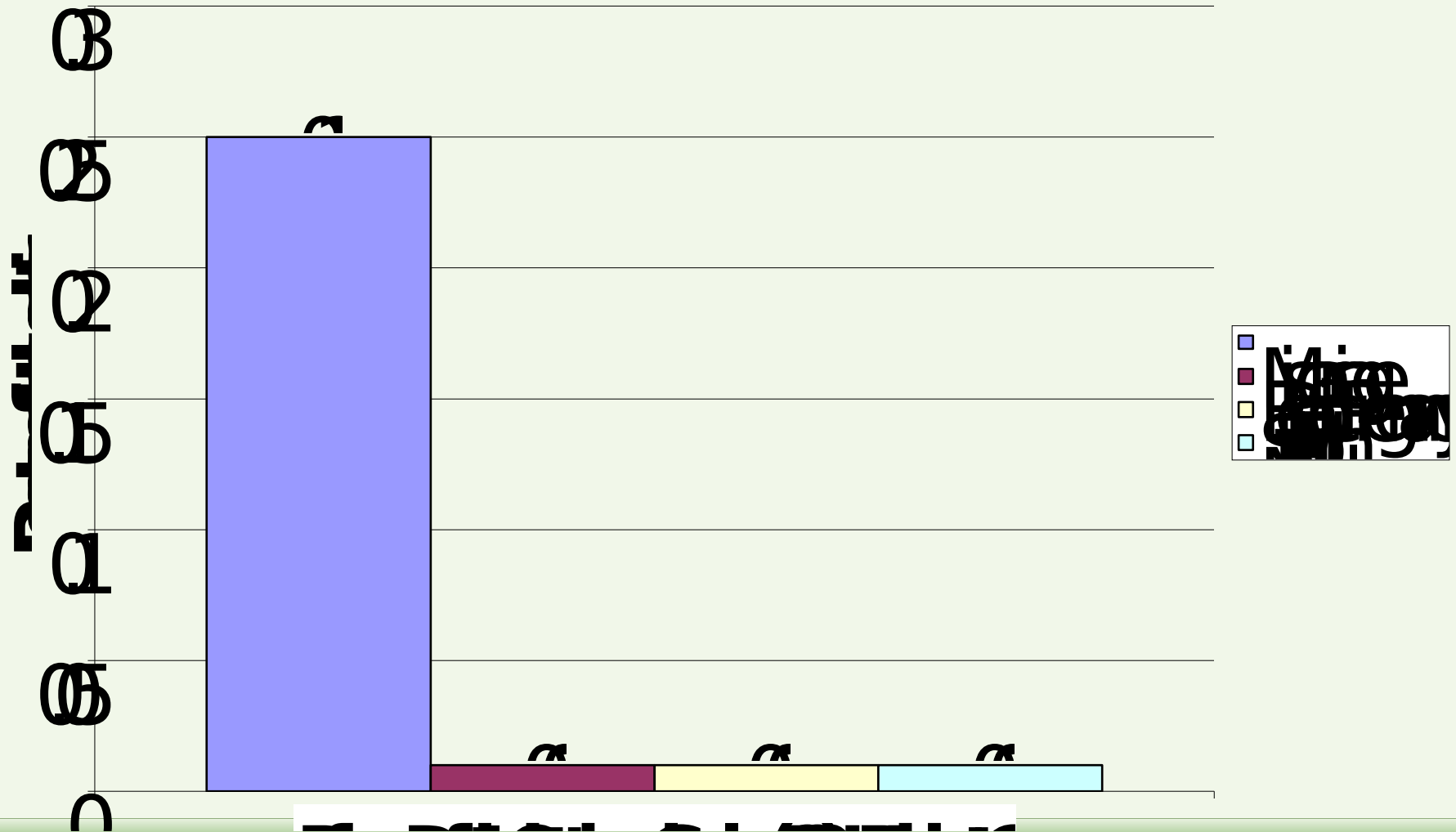
RTS is designed:

- To help families cope with their grief in a positive way and adapt to their new life without their baby,
- To make health care professionals and others more aware of the needs of families who are grieving the loss of a baby, and
- To meet the needs of bereaved parents and their family during the initial crisis of the loss of their baby,
- To offer and provide comprehensive care to each family who has experienced a loss of a baby,
- To incorporate grief and loss into the health care professional's practice, such that it becomes a 'standard of care'.

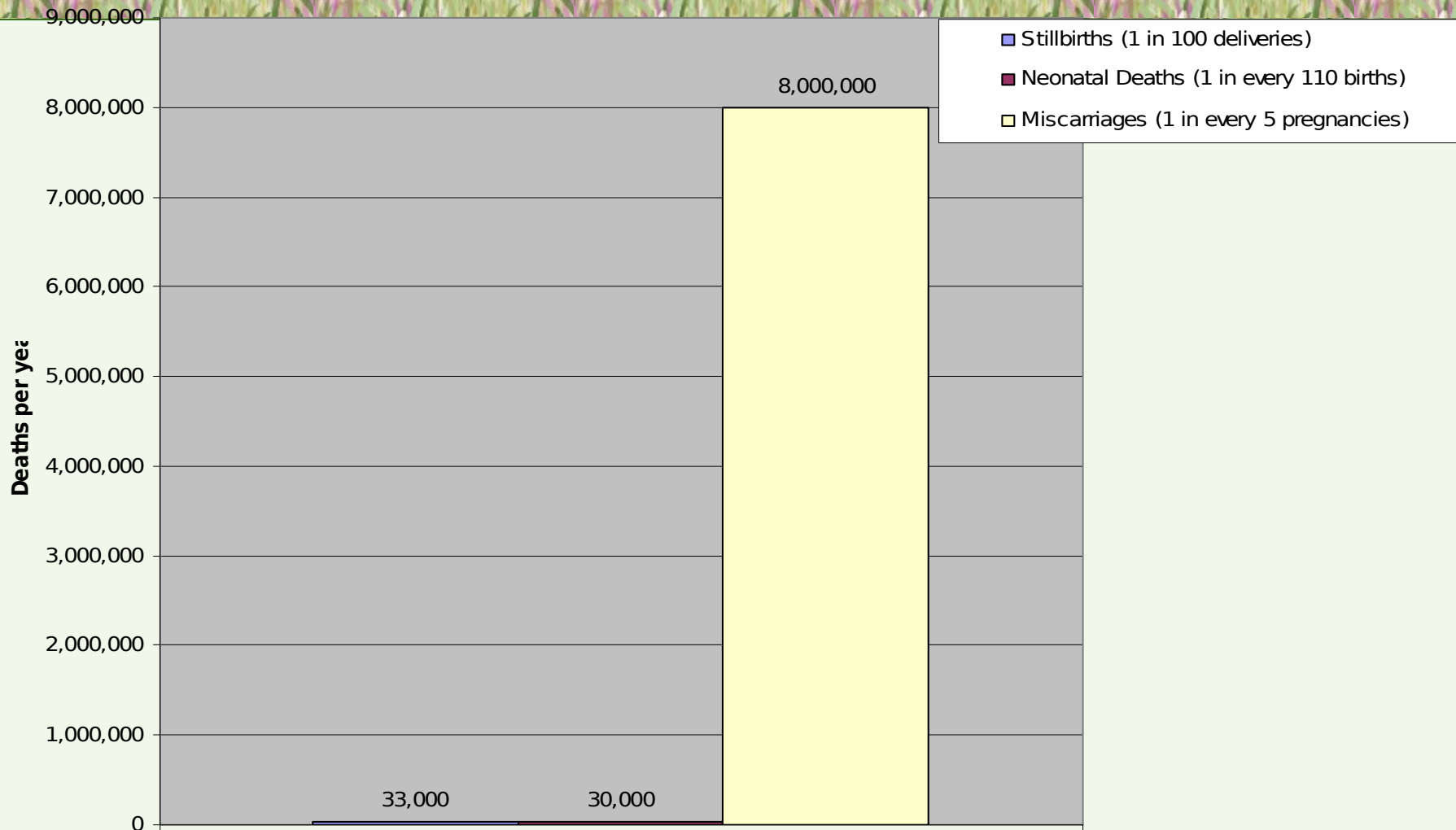
History of RTS

- In the late 1970s and early 1980s, several individuals at Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, WI were providing more than just “routine” care of families who lost a child through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or newborn death.
- Resolve Through Sharing officially began in Sep 1981 with the first RTS Counselor Training Course.

Incidence of Perinatal Loss



Perinatal Loss Statistics



Reference: J ournal of Perinatology, Vol. IX, No. 3. 1989.

Why perinatal death can be complicated

- The suddenness and unexpected nature of the loss
- The way infant death is socially defined in our culture
- No one expects to lose a child. Often infant death is downplayed, hidden out of sight, non-acknowledgement.



Grief is
experienced in
relation to the
attachment.



Myths/misunderstanding about grief

- All losses are the same
- All bereaved parents grieve in the same way
- Grief declines steadily over time
- When grief is resolved, it never comes up again

Rando, T. (1988). GRIEVING: HOW TO GO ON LIVING WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES.

Myths/misunderstanding about grief

- Infant death shouldn't be too difficult to resolve because you didn't know the child that well
- Children need to be protected from grief and death
- It is not important for you to have social support in your grief
- It takes two months to get over grief

Rando, T. (1988). GRIEVING: HOW TO GO ON LIVING WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES.

Myths/misunderstanding about grief

- Children grieve like adults
- Parents only feel crazy if they are going crazy
- The intensity and length of your grief are testimony to your love for the deceased
- Bereaved parents do not have a relationship with the deceased baby after the death

Rando, T. (1988). GRIEVING: HOW TO GO ON LIVING WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES.



Death is a universal experience, yet
responses to it are shaped by
cultural attitudes and beliefs.
Therefore death is a cultural event.

DeSpelder, L. & Strickland, A (1992). THE LAST DANCE: ENCOUNTERING DEATH AND DYING. Palo Alto: Mayfield Publishing Co.



Attaching and bonding concepts

- Attachment/Bonding Concepts
- Planning the pregnancy
- Confirming the pregnancy
- Accepting the pregnancy
- Feeling fetal movements
- Accepting the fetus as an individual

Bowlby (1982); Klaus & Kennell (1982).

Attaching and bonding concepts

- Giving birth
- Hearing and seeing the baby
- Touching and holding the baby
- Caring for the infant

Bowlby (1982); Klaus & Kennell (1982).

Six Stages of Parenthood

- Image-making stage
- Nurturing state
- Authority stage
- Interpretive stage
- Interdependent stage
- Departure stage

Galinsky, E. (1987). THE SIX STAGES OF PARENTHOOD.
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